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Washington, DC – Today, the House Budget Committee approved H.R. 4890, the Legislative Line Item Veto Act of 2006. This legislation would bring need sunlight to the congressional earmark process by giving the president the power to single out questionable spending projects and request an up or down vote to remove them from bills passed by Congress.

U.S. Rep. John Campbell a cosponsor of the measure and a member of the Budget Committee said, "The Legislative Line Item Veto will give Congress and the president a tool to remove irresponsible earmarks and wasteful pork-barrel spending form otherwise acceptable legislation. The federal appropriations process is long overdue for reform, and this proposal adds needed accountability to the process."

The Legislative Line Item Veto would give the president the authority to propose the elimination of specific provisions of a spending bills passed by Congress. These proposed eliminations would then be introduced in Congress and be put on a congressional "fast track" for consideration to receive an up or down vote within 10 days of introduction. If the individual recession is approved by both houses it will be eliminated from the previous bill. Each of the rescissions would be considered individually by Congress, and the president would not be able to propose new spending with this procedure. In addition to spending provisions, this procedure could also be used to eliminate special interest tax breaks that apply to less the one hundered individuals.

The Legislative Line Item Veto Act is similar to a proposal passed in 1998 which was ruled unconstitutional by U.S. Supreme Court. However, the constitutional concerns were addressed in the new proposal by including a legislative procedure to preserve congressional authority and involvement in the process.

"The Legislative Line Item Veto is a well thought out measure which will bring needed transparency and reform to the way Washington spends the hard earned tax dollars of the American people. By ensuring that Congress is involved in the veto process it

addresses previous Constitutional questions which have previously prevented this common sense reform from being implemented," added Campbell.

H.R. 4890 was introduced by U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and has 105 cosponsors. The proposal is among several budget process reforms Campbell and other fiscal conservatives have endorsed as ways to reduce spending and bring transparency to the earmark process.